

April 21, 2015

Representative Amanda Price
Anderson House Office Bldg.
N-1193 House Office Building
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Regarding: HB 4265 to Amend Community College Act of 1966

Dear Chairwoman Price:

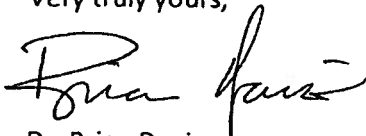
I am writing to lend my support to HB 4265 to amend the Community College Act of 1966 to remove the requirement that an annexing district must be contiguous to the community college district it seeks to join.

As you know, the Holland area would greatly benefit by being within a community college district. Our community would benefit from enhanced dual enrollment and middle college opportunities, a more affordable launch toward a bachelor's degree, and enhanced skills and job training programs, not just for our students but also for our smaller employers, companies that cannot afford to run their own job training program. Holland is the largest metropolitan area in Michigan that is not in a community college district, which puts us at a huge disadvantage in attracting and retaining advanced manufacturing jobs, health and agriculture that we see as the backbone of our local economy.

However, the school districts in the Holland area are not contiguous to an existing community college district and an ISD-wide solution is not viable because it would make sense for some of the local districts to annex to the Muskegon Community College district and for others to annex to the Grand Rapids Community College district. Our local school districts should have the option to annex into a non-contiguous community college district, as your bill would allow.

Holland Public Schools is currently part of the South Ottawa Early College Program in partnership with MCC. In our first year, we have had a great deal of excitement, engagement and encouragement by the students participating in this program. I anticipate that within two years, HPS will be in need of our own early college program given the current limitations of space available with our current application with the SOECP. The ability for HPS to have flexibility in seeking affordable early college options with additional partners like GRCC would be beneficial to our program and long-term sustainability.

Very truly yours,



Dr. Brian Davis
Superintendent-Holland Public Schools